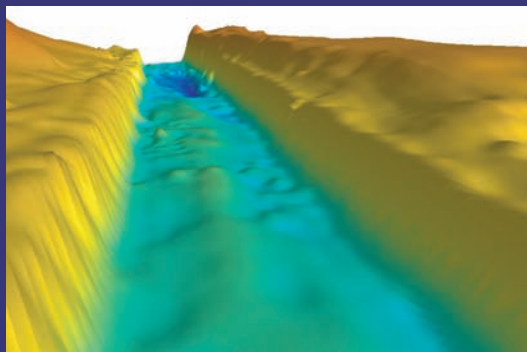


World Hydrography Day

In 2002, the International Hydrographic Organization and its 75 Member States recognized the need to increase global awareness of the importance of hydrography to the safety of global marine transportation and protection of the marine environment. Therefore, "World Hydrography Day" was designated, to be celebrated every year on the 21st of June, coinciding with the date the IHO was established in 1921. On November 29, 2005, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/60/30, which includes a statement recognizing the establishment of World Hydrography Day. On June 21, 2006, the first annual World Hydrography Day will be celebrated around the world.

What is Hydrography?

Hydrography is that branch of applied sciences which deals with the measurement and description of the features of the sea and coastal areas for the primary purpose of navigation. Hydrography is also essential for emergency response, coastal zone management, scientific research, resource mapping and many other uses.

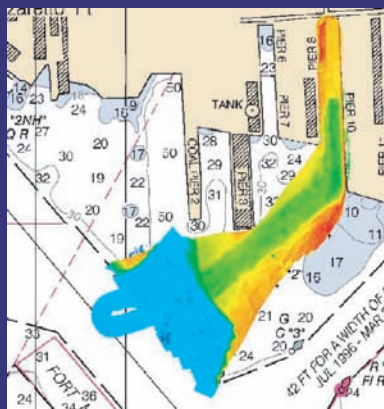


Charleston, SC, Ship Channel 3D Survey

International Hydrographic Organization

The IHO is an intergovernmental consultative and technical organization established in 1921 to support the safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment.

The mission of the IHO is to ensure the provision of adequate and timely hydrographic information for worldwide marine navigation and other purposes, through the endeavors of national hydrographic offices.



A subsidiary mission is the application of hydrographic data to support science, and to promote its use in geographic information systems, principally for the sustainable development of national maritime zones and protection of the marine environment.

For more information on World Hydrography Day and the IHO, please visit the IHO website at: www.iho.int

First Annual World Hydrography Day June 21, 2006



**The
International Hydrographic
Organization:**

**85 Years of Advancing
Worldwide Safety of Navigation and
Protection of the Marine Environment**

Hydrography in the United States: A 200 Year History

When the United States was founded, its economy was largely dependent on maritime trade with Europe. Shipwrecks due to unknown navigation hazards were an unfortunate but common cost of doing business.

President Thomas Jefferson recognized that the success of this young nation depended upon maritime commerce. In 1807 he established the Survey of the Coast to map and produce nautical charts depicting the hydrography of U.S. waters.

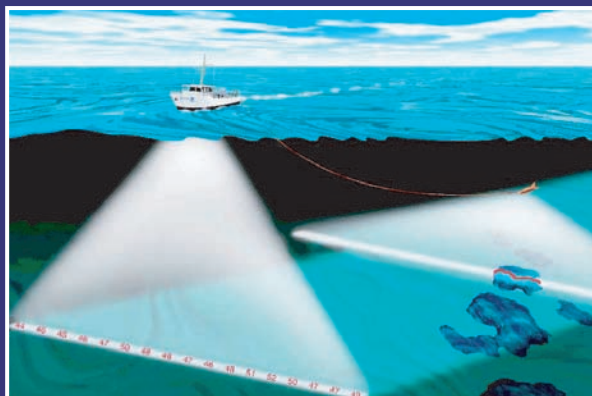
From 1807 until the mid-20th century, surveys were performed with various forms of the leadline, a weighted line cast overboard to read the water depth only at that point. The effort was labor- and time-intensive. But in the 21st century we now use the Global Positioning System and new sonar technologies to "sound" the bottom, accurately detecting depths and obstructions in wide swaths of coverage. This data provides the foundation upon which nautical charts – both paper and digital electronic charts – are built.

Maritime commerce was critical 200 years ago, and remains today the backbone of the U.S. economy. Over 95% of U.S. foreign trade tonnage is moved by sea, and two-thirds of everything we buy, eat or wear comes to us by ship. Millions of American consumers benefit from the low-cost goods arriving at our ports from all over the world. Moreover, our waterways are vital to national security and military mobility. They are also places of recreation and environmental beauty.

World Hydrography Day is a new occasion to recognize our dependence on maritime transport and the significant contribution that accurate hydrographic data makes to safe navigation, reducing risk of accidents at sea, and environmental protection.



NOAA Hydrographic Survey Vessel
THOMAS JEFFERSON



Hull-mounted multibeam sonar (left)
and towed side-scan sonar (right)



NOAA Electronic Navigational Chart

Hydrography and Nautical Charts

Today both U.S. law and international treaties require the United States to provide charts adequate to support safe navigation in U.S. waters. Regulations require that most vessels operating in U.S. waters carry up-to-date charts of the areas they transit.

Hydrographic surveying and nautical charting in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone are now the responsibility of the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Department of Defense hydrographic services are provided by the Naval Oceanographic Office, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. The U.S. economy, environmental safety and national security continue to depend on accurate hydrographic surveys and nautical charts.



For more information on hydrography and U.S. nautical charting, please visit the agency websites at:

- nauticalcharts.noaa.gov
- www.navo.navy.mil
- www.usace.army.mil
- www.nga.mil

In 2007, NOAA will celebrate "200 Years of Science, Service and Stewardship." While this event has its roots in the establishment of the Survey of the Coast in 1807, the year-long celebration will highlight all the valuable work NOAA does for each American every day.